

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 02647 301716Z

64

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 PC-05 IGA-02 AID-05 H-02

/070 W

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R 301608Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS BAMAKO 2647

ALSO FOR PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ML

SUBJECT: SELF HELP PROJECT-PEACE CORPS MALI IN ACTION

1. CHARGE, ACCCOMPANIED BY ACTING PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, PAO AND WIFE, VICE CONSUL AND EMBASSY'S TDY DOCTOR, VISITED VILLAGE OF NYONYA, ARRONDISEMENT OF BAGUINEDA, ABOUT 25 KM FROM BAMAKO ON JULY 28 TO INSPECT COMPLETED SELF HELP PROJECT. VOLUNTEER DICK GANNON OF MINGO, IDAHO, WHO LIVES IN THIS VILLAGE, WAS ESCORT. THE PROJECT INVOLVED \$3,400 TO PROVIDE WELL COVERS AND CASINGS, PLUS WOOD FOR ONE NEW PRIVY PER WELL. GANNON CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED PROJECT TO COMPLETION.

2. VISITORS WERE MET BY MOST OF 180 RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE. DRUMMERS AND DANCERS WELCOMED GROUP WHICH THEN TOURED PROJECT AND TALKED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES. ALL VILLAGERS WERE CLEARLY VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 02647 301716Z

HAPPY WITH AMERICAN HELP AND PROUD THAT GANNON WAS

MEMBER OF THEIR VILLAGE. ONE OF VILLAGE LEADERS MADE WARM SPEECH OF PRAISE FOR UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE TOLD HIS DRUMMERS TO MAKE SURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE COULD HEAR THEM BACK IN THE US AND THEY DID THEIR BEST TO COMPLY. CHARGE MADE BRIEF REPLY CITING DESIRE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COOPERATE WITH MALIAN PEOPLE IN IMPROVING THEIR DAILY LIVES.

3. MEDIA INTEREST SO FAR IS ENCOURAGING. RADIO MALI HAS ALREADY CARRIED ACCOUNT OF PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHER FROM OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR ACCOMPANIED GROUP YESTERDAY. WE ARE WORKING ON PHOTOS AND ARTICLE WE WILL PROPOSE TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: PEACE CORPS MALI IS ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL IN REACHING RURAL POOR, AND CONTINUING PRESENCE OF HIGHLY MOTIVATED VOLUNTEERS LIKE GANNON IS LIVING PROOF OF AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO MALIAN PEOPLE. SELF HELP PROJECTS IN MALI, WHEN TIED TO PEACE CORPS, HAVE PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS.

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